

sequential referral, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED STATES ARMY COM-
MAND SERGEANT MAJOR MAR-
TIN R. BARRERAS

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Command Sergeant Major Martin R. Barreras, who died on May 12, 2014 from wounds he suffered on May 6 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Harat Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his mother, father, brother, two children, a grandson, and numerous friends.

Born in New Mexico, Command Sergeant Major Barreras spent most of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Sunnyside High School before joining the military. In his last assignment of his long military career, he was assigned as the highest-ranking enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was on his sixth deployment to Afghanistan, after serving 29 honorable years defending our country in both the Army and Marine Corps.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was a great soldier. Over his career he earned fifty awards and distinctions including a Bronze Star with valor and two Purple Hearts. However, his illustrious career depicted through his medals will not be the only thing to highlight his service to our country. The men and women he lead and fought with will always remember his selflessness and war fighting spirit that will undoubtedly be passed on for generations to come.

As an Army Ranger he helped rescue former Prisoner of War Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in 2003. Command Sergeant Major Barreras was the leader of the Army battalion that conducted the successful rescue of Lynch. He personally handed Lynch to another soldier to transfer her to the helicopter that evacuated her from the area. Without any hesitation, he then led the fight against multiple attacks in order to retrieve all 9 bodies of the other U.S. soldiers missing in action.

We remember Command Sergeant Major Barreras and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. I am heart-sick for their loss and my words cannot offer adequate consolation.

Everyone in our great country owes Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my fellow colleagues and all Americans to remember, on this Memorial Day weekend, Command Sergeant Major Barrens and his fellow fallen comrades—those who have paid the ultimate price.

USA FREEDOM ACT

HON. SUSAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act, I am disappointed that I cannot support this bill as it is considered on the floor today.

Like many Americans, I was shocked to learn about the National Security Agency's domestic spying program that was sweeping up the private communications records of millions of innocent Americans. It goes against American values and our Constitution. That's why two weeks ago I was pleased to join my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in unanimously supporting the USA Freedom Act as it passed out of the committee.

I believed that the compromise, while far from perfect, would help rebuild the public trust in government by ending bulk collection, assuring that government surveillance authorities are rule-bound, narrowly tailored, transparent and subject to oversight, all while ensuring that the nation's intelligence community can protect national security.

Unfortunately, since then, negotiations with the Administration have resulted in this bill moving in the wrong direction. While I believe that the intent of this bill is to end bulk collection and I am glad that there is widespread agreement that Congress must act to end bulk collection, I am not convinced the bill effectively achieves this. The weakened definition of "specific selection term" must be addressed as this bill moves forward in order to provide absolute certainty that the legislative language achieves this intent, and that the bill's ban on bulk collection is air-tight. Today's bill simply fall short of what is needed to provide a clear guarantee to the public that the massive data collection by the NSA will be put to a full stop.

I appreciate the efforts of the Committees and Leadership to support greater transparency in the bill. The transparency reporting amendment that I offered in the Judiciary Committee that is included in the bill will allow companies to disclose information regarding the number and nature of government demands for user information. However, the new manager's amendment that we are considering on the House floor today has weakened this provision by, for example, adding a two-year delay that prohibits companies from issuing transparency reports for new products or services. I offered several amendments to the Rules Committee to address my concerns with the weakened language in the manager's amendment, but none of these amendments were given an opportunity for debate or a vote on the House floor.

I thank the Committees and the Leadership for their work to move this important conversation forward, but I simply cannot support the bill in its current form.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COMMANDER ROBERT JAMES FLYNN, USN RETIRED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, 2014, Northwest Florida and our Nation lost a warrior—Commander Robert James Flynn, United States Navy, Retired. Commander Flynn honorably served our country as a member of the Armed Forces for twenty-seven years, and I am humbled to rise and pay tribute to his life and his unwavering devotion to God and country.

Hailing from La Crosse, Wisconsin, Commander Flynn studied pre-law at the University of Minnesota until 1958 when he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program. Within two years, he became a Naval Flight Officer and then trained as a bombardier/navigator. On August 21, 1967, his life took a tragic turn when his A-6 aircraft, which launched from the USS *Constellation*, was shot down over North Vietnam. Commander Flynn spent the next five and a half years of his life in a Chinese prison. According to the POW Network, his unimaginable 2,030 days in solitary confinement makes it the longest amount of time a member of the U.S. Armed Forces served in solitary confinement. Commander Flynn was released on March 15, 1973.

Commander Flynn was proud to say that his captors called him "one of the most reactionary prisoners in their history." His relentless strength and courage were hallmarks of both his life and career, and it was his strong faith in God, his love for his family, and his commitment to duty, honor, and country that even in the darkest of times he held on and survived. His final assignment as Director of Aviation Warfare Training with Chief of Naval Education and Training at Naval Air Station Pensacola brought Commander Flynn back home to his beloved Northwest Florida. In 1985, he retired from the Navy after 71 missions. Throughout his distinguished Naval Career, Commander Flynn earned and was bestowed multiple honors including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Prisoner of War Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of an American hero and decorated warrior. Our Nation, the Northwest Florida community, and countless others will miss Commander Flynn's unwavering perseverance and optimism, but his legacy will endure for years to come. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to his wife, Kathy; their two children, Elizabeth and Robert; and the entire Flynn family.

TRIBUTE TO CARRYE B. BROWN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true trail blazer, Carrye B. Brown, on the 20th anniversary of her appointment as our nation's first female and first African American U.S. Fire Administrator. A D.C.